

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action dated July 2, 2008, Applicants were required to elect one of the following groups of invention:

Group I, claim 14 directed to a method of delivering an oligonucleotide or a plasmid expressing an oligonucleotide in a target cell comprising introducing the oligonucleotide into a target cell and contacting the target cell with the donor cell under conditions permitting the donor cell to form a gap junction channel, wherein the gap junction is composed of connexin 43;

Group II, claim 15 directed to a method of delivering an oligonucleotide or a plasmid expressing an oligonucleotide in a target cell comprising introducing the oligonucleotide into a target cell and contacting the target cell with the donor cell under conditions permitting the donor cell to form a gap junction channel, wherein the gap junction is composed of connexin 40;

Group III, claim 16 directed to a method of delivering an oligonucleotide or a plasmid expressing an oligonucleotide in a target cell comprising introducing the oligonucleotide into a target cell and contacting the target cell with the donor cell under conditions permitting the donor cell to form a gap junction channel, wherein the gap junction is composed of connexin 45;

Group IV, claim 17 directed to a method of delivering an oligonucleotide or a plasmid expressing an oligonucleotide in a target cell comprising introducing the oligonucleotide into a target cell and contacting the target cell with the donor cell under conditions permitting the donor cell to form a gap junction channel, wherein the gap junction is composed of connexin 32;and

Group V, claim 18 directed to a method of delivering an oligonucleotide or a plasmid expressing an oligonucleotide in a target cell comprising introducing the oligonucleotide into a target cell and contacting the target cell with the donor cell under conditions permitting the donor cell to form a gap junction channel, wherein the gap junction is composed of connexin 37.

Applicants elect to prosecute the invention of Group I, claim 14, and reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter. Applicants traverse this restriction requirement based on the fact that it would not be an undue burden for the Examiner to conduct a search for the five different connexins specified in the claims.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that the Office pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

The Office is authorized to charge any fees that may be necessary for consideration of this paper to Kenyon & Kenyon Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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**CUSTOMER NO. 26646**